MONTEREY NEWS

July 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 7

The Town

Scholarships Awarded

Eleven young people from Monterey were recently awarded scholarships from the McLaughlin Wilson Scholarship Fund, according to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which oversees the Fund. The McLaughlin Wilson Committee, comprised of five Monterey residents, awarded a total of $62,000 this year.

Edith Wilson created the scholarship in 1995 as a testament to her love for Monterey and in memory of her lifelong friend Marjorie McLaughlin, to support the town's young people as they pursue a college education. Graduating seniors and currently enrolled full-time college students are eligible to apply for funding. Application criteria include academic merit, town residency, and receipt of a high school diploma or GED. Nine recipients had their scholarships renewed as they continue their college education; two are graduating high school students.

Renewal awards were given to Ellen Hamm (Tulane University), David Shea (Northeastern University), Josh Aerie (accepted in University of Michigan Masters program), Noah Wright (Kansas State), Bethany Sadlowski (Boston University), Shaylan Burkhart (University of Leeds), Michelle Grotz-Rhone (Columbia), Jeff Pilot (University of Rhode Island), and Lucy Rosenthal (University of Miami). Shanna Hamm and Emily Sottile, both June graduates of Mount Everett Regional High School, are new recipients of the scholarship. Shanna has been accepted at the University of Oklahoma, and Emily plans to study political science or international affairs.

Scholarship application forms for the 2001 round of awards will be available in January 2001 at the Monterey Library, the Monterey Town Hall, school guidance offices, or by calling the BTCF office at 1-800-969-2823.

Will Marsh

Memorial Day 2000 at Veterans Memorial Park: The color guard of Jeff Bynack (by flagpole) and (l–r) Tom Haugh, Stefan Grotz, Frank D'Amato, and Kenneth Heath, Jr., are backed up by veterans Orville Vosburgh, Felix Zagurski, Art Funk, Frank Rotondo, and Dan Eschen.

Slow Speeds for Summer Safety

The Police Department and the Select Board have expressed concern about drivers exceeding the speed limit in Monterey. The results of the town survey also show that many citizens are concerned with speeding and the danger it causes. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus is urging all Monterey residents to voluntarily comply with posted speed limits. In addition, the Police Department will be using both a handheld radar and a car radar to help catch speeders. Please help to ensure a safe summer by keeping your speed down.

Town Survey Results Compiled

In May, 1998, work was begun on a town survey. Town agencies and organizations submitted questions for the survey, which was mailed to all seasonal and full-time residents in September 1999. The response rate of approximately 30 percent was quite high, as town survey response rates are typically around 10 percent.

Of the 268 households that returned their surveys, 97 percent own their own homes, and 56 percent are seasonal residents. On average, respondents have lived in Monterey for 20.7 years. Respondents see the town as a good place to raise a family and appreciate the natural qualities and rural character of Monterey.

The survey was a useful tool for assessing what the citizens of Monterey feel could be improved in our town. Forty percent of the respondents felt that a community center with programs for special interests and hobbies, as well as for youth and the elderly, would be a good addition to Monterey. Seventy-three percent encouraged CPR and First Aid classes, and 83 percent feel the need for swimming lessons for children. Sixty-three percent would like to see additional transportation services for the elderly and handicapped. Other needs highlighted by the survey include improvements in day care and after-school care, homework help and after-school activities for youth, and improvements in the secure preservation of town records.

Monterey residents also feel good about several of the town services. Fifty-nine percent of the respondents feel that police protection is "adequate," the highest rating on the survey. Adequate ratings were also given to fire protection by 73 percent, emergency ambulance services by 62 percent, and road maintenance by 43 percent.

Although many Monterey residents stated that they do not know about zoning laws, 45 percent felt that current zoning bylaws are sufficient to protect their interests. 52 percent said that the town should not allow for cluster zoning, and 78 percent said that the town should adopt regulations to protect views and ridgelines.

One of the strong trends shown by the survey is that Montereyans want to protect the town and the natural areas that surround it. Strong majorities stated that they do not want new construction for additional rental units, do not want the current business district to expand, do not want more retail or commercial facilities to be introduced, and do not want a new business district created. There is also strong support for the town to participate in the maintenance and upkeep of public lakes, and many respondents feel that the preservation and maintenance of dirt roads, farmland, and wooded areas are very important. In regards to the school, 81 percent think that it is important to keep a school in Monterey, and 85 percent think that the School District should maintain a school in Monterey.

Although 58 percent state that they do not know if the town is adequately planning for its future, 70 percent lend their support to hiring a professional land planner to help the town determine the best use of various town-owned parcels, once it is determined by this survey which services the townspeople desire.

Work on this town survey has been in process since May, 1998. Now that the results have been compiled, we have a better picture of which services are adequate and which need improvement. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. If you would like a detailed copy of the survey results, they are available at the town offices.

Second Homeowners Meeting

The Select Board will sponsor a second homeowners meeting on Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at Town Hall and is open to everyone. Please come with any questions or concerns you have about owning a second home in Monterey.

Dump Sticker Renewal

New dump stickers are needed by July 1 this year. Mailings with applications for the new stickers were sent out in June and may be turned in at the Town Hall. Stickers are valid for one year and cost $40.00 for a single-family residence. Fees cover approximately two-thirds the cost of operating the transfer station. If you have not yet renewed your dump sticker, please do so as soon as possible.

Select Board Appointments

On Monday, June 12, the Select Board made seventy-five appointments to various town offices. Many of these were reappointments, and the officers will remain the same. However, there are seven appointments that are new:

Board of Appeals, alternate (5 years):
Georgiana C. O'Connell

Cultural Council (2 years):
Melissa Mishcon

Historical Commission (3 years):
Jan Emmons

Memorial Day Coordinator (new position, 3 years): Linda Thorpe

Town Report Committee (3 years):
Linda Thorpe and Fran Amidon

Wilson House Committee (1 year):
Edith Ross

A complete list of appointments is available at the town offices. Anyone interested in serving a term as a town official should please let the Select Board know of your interest, and they will take this into account when making new appointments.

— Melissa Hochstetler

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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I Love Monterey Day, Gould Farm Barn Raising

Saturday, July 29

Gould Farm will be staging a barn raising in conjunction with this year's "I Love Monterey Day" and will be hosting many of the activities during the day.

At Gould Farm, starting at 9:00 a.m., the Timber Framers Guild and the Massachusetts Portable Sawmill Owners Association will be culminating many months of work by raising the frame of a new barn. This new home for Gould Farm's Harvest and Trades Center will include a large root cellar, food processing kitchen, and resource space for the farm operations.

It will be a big day all over town, with several events scheduled. Here's what you can choose to do:

Eleanor Kimberley

Schedule of Events

Barn Raising Activities
Gould Farm
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Kid's Fun Run
Center of Town
9:00 a.m.

Annual Knox Trail Run
Starting in Center of Town
9:30 a.m.

Annual Library Book Sale
Library Lawn
10:00 a.m.–1 p.m.

Barn Dedication Speeches
Gould Farm Barn Site
11:30 a.m.

Lunch and Music
Gould Farm
Grilled Lunch Items for Sale
12:00–2:00 p.m.
Music By Mountain Laurel
12:30–1:30 p.m.

Timber Framing, Sawmill Exhibits
Gould Farm
12 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Interesting tools will be on display.

Open House at Berkshire Fish Hatchery
River/Hatchery Road
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Come see the new projects being undertaken by Hampshire College in cooperation with Gould Farm

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast
Fire Hall Pavillion
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Support our Monterey volunteer firemen while enjoying good food and the company of your neighbors. Tickets are available from the firemen.

Contra Dance
Gould Farm
9:00 p.m.
Come dance the night away on the deck of the newly raised barn.

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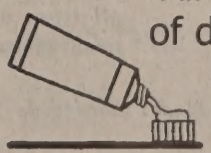

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Route 23 Monterey

Joyce and Lew: Democratic Delegates

At the Democratic Town Committee meeting last February, our Party Chairman, Charlie Ferris, asked for a couple of volunteers to represent Monterey at the State Convention in June. There wasn't much of a response—there wasn't any response. Charlie looked at Lew and me. Wouldn't the Scheffeys like to do this? Its educational? Fun? For the party? For our country?

Well, it was February ... June was a long way away, to be sure—so, "Sure," we said.

Lo and behold, June came—along with a glorious day, a perfect day to just stay home. However, duty called. Off to Lowell we went.

I had made a hotel reservation in Chelmsford for the Friday before the convention, not wanting to miss the opening ceremony, if any, early Saturday morning. We also wanted to attend the Friday night festivities, flyers for which had been arriving for weeks. After checking in and getting a bite to eat, we hopped on one of the shuttle buses provided by the City of Lowell to ferry outlying hotel guests back and forth to the Tsongas Arena.

To get to Lowell from Chelmsford one must circle the old Wang building, now something called "Cross-Point"—aptly titled, as it looms directly in the path of all ground transport and effectively inhibits the ability to get anywhere. As you inch around it, in early evening traffic, new vistas of it emerge. The building grows like a chrysalis unfolding, sprouting a new arm or leg whenever a corner is rounded. It dominates the morass of highways. There is nowhere else to look.

Cross Point conquered, we arrive at Tsongas Arena where we are directed to the back lawn. The arena grounds are spacious and splendid, and by the time we have navigated them, Ted Kennedy has just finished his talk. We are in time, however, to cheer heartily, redeem our "beer & wine chits," and join in the toast.

We enter into conversation with Bob Farino, a fine fellow from Winthrop who knows everyone. He and his brothers, friends, and friends' brothers have a great collection of "wine & beer" chits and offer us beer on them. I try to explain, in my inimical way, that I have to drink wine because I can't drink Budweiser (the only beer offered) because Budweiser is the beer of choice of those who trash the Berkshire woods. "Huh?" they say. I lay off and they take us under their collective wings.

When asked, they explain that there isn't much to actually "do" at a convention, in a civic way. We would get to cast a vote for Ted (which somehow never happened) and there would be some amendments which would be passed with or without us. Conventions, we are told, are basically for the like-minded to get together, offer support and enjoy.

That is fine with us. We decline to attend the next party on their agenda and with many thanks bid them good night. "See you tomorrow," which also, regretfully, never happened.

We then walk along the new Merrimack River Walk, enjoying the night; Lowell's skyline of wonderfully refurbished old mills with their great smokestacks echoes days of toil past. We listen to the band playing for the few still-dancing Democrats. We surmise that most must be attending parties hither and yon, for the night is young.

But we are old and catch a bus, joining a rollicking contingent from Roxbury for the trip 'round Cross Point back to the hotel.

The Convention: Saturday morning: Another beautiful day. We dawdle. Sudden panic, when we realize that if we don't get the bus outside the hotel we will miss the opening ceremony, if any. We do miss the bus, and the ceremony, if any, but do arrive in time for many, many speeches.

Outside the hall itself, in the catwalk, were lots of booths with earnest Democrats expounding their own particular cause. These ranged from

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"Democrats For 'Life'" to exponents of "The Clean Election Law" and the banning of greyhound racing. We signed petitions hither and thither, and Lew buys a tie with capering donkeys, which he will never wear.

I do recommend party conventions to one and all. The atmosphere is gala and festive. There we were, like Bob Farino had said the night before, surrounded by like-minded (well pretty like-minded) souls, all plugging away for pretty much the same set of values. It's exhilarating.

The Tsongas Arena is impressive. Lowell has done a fine job of renewal, and the Arena is state-of-the-art magnificent. We are directed to "our section," which includes us, Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin Districts. Delegates present from our district are from Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Dalton, Peru, Hinsdale, Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and Monterey. Perhaps some others, but if so I missed them. We are almost on top of the stage, and luckily I find some ear plugs in my bag and am thereby able to hear. The loud speakers were deafening—surely not their purpose. The speeches are actually very enlightening, and with ear plugs, intelligible.

Our State Senator, Andy Nuciforo, is present and manages to sit down and in spite of the din, is able to, sort of, chat with his constituents. He and I get into why he has not wholeheartedly supported the Clean Election Law, but due to the noise level we agree to confer at another time.

Dems Dems: Senator Nuciforo, Joyce, and Lew at state Democratic convention.

I begin to wonder where our U.S. Representative, John Olver, is. He is running for reelection, so why isn't he here warming up a seat with his constituents? "Oh well, John's John," I think, when suddenly he appears on stage. He gives a short, low-key, terrifically informed talk, including a succinct history of our party, Ted Kennedy's place in it, and a tribute to the City of Lowell. I am proud of him.

He is followed by a mass of Kennedys. The day was Teddy's. Both his sons, Ted, Jr. (baby Teddy on his hip), and Patrick, give rousing speeches. Daughter Karla introduces a video spanning Ted's congressional years, and his wife Vicki gives an eloquent and moving tribute to her "sweetheart and champion of those who have no voice."

And then came the great man himself. As he speaks, the years drop off him. The energy is still with him (and us), thank the Lord. His Democrats are rapt as he recounts some of his many battles, victories and losses, hopes and plans. At the end of his speech we rise as one. The shouts and applause resound off the rafters and flags wave merrily.

Spirits are high and no one seems inclined to listen anymore, after Ted. Indeed it is impossible to. The noise level in the hall now drowns out whatever is going on on the podium. Amendments, no doubt. There is no ascertaining of what is happening.

It is just after 3 p.m. when we catch the bus with other tired and exhilarated Democrats and head for the Cross Point behemoth and the trek home.

— Joyce Scheffey

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Storytelling for Children at Monterey Library

The Monterey Library is sponsoring a storytelling for children prekindergarten through grade four on Saturday, July 15, at 10 a.m. at the Library. Vicky Cooper, a school library media specialist and experienced storyteller, will share stories and surprises, so mark the date on your calendar.

Interpretive Nature Hikes in Beartown State Forest

Beartown State Forest is planning educational and recreational hikes every Friday afternoon during the month of July. All hikes will begin at 1 p.m. and will be led by naturalist Jeanne Schnackenberg, who will discuss the natural history, flora, and fauna of the park. Those interested in participating should meet at the beach area and be prepared to hike for one and a half hours. Please wear sturdy boots and bring plenty of water and bug spray.

Directions to Beartown State Forest: From the center of Monterey, head east on Route 23 for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Blue Hill Road (by Veterans Memorial Park). The Beartown State Forest entrance is 2 miles from Route 23 on the right.

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Logs to Lumber

Things have been really humming in late May and early June. Gould Farm's Harvest and Trades Center barn-building project has kicked into high gear. The forms and foundation have been poured. Perhaps more exciting, over the Memorial Day weekend, a good part of the lumber was sawed. It doesn't *look* like a barn yet, but it will, a few weeks from now.

Approximately forty thousand board feet of lumber will be needed for the barn. (A board foot is a volume of one-twelfth of a cubic foot. For instance, a one-foot length of a 2-inch x 6-inch plank would be one board-foot.) Most of the timber was contributed by Dicken Crane or by Barbieri Lumber, but some of the timber was milled at the Farm on Memorial Day weekend after being cut from the Farm's five-hundred acres of woods by Steve Harding of Field and Forest Maintenance Service. Most of it was hemlock, a pretty rugged softwood. The logs were cut to length (usually 12 to 16 feet) where they fell, and transported out of the woods on farm tractors instead of skidders. (A skidder is an articulated four-wheel-drive machine that can carry six times the timber that a farm tractor can, but it is so big and clumsy that it cannot help but bump up against trees or, more likely, knock down young trees.) Harding does things according to the latest advances in Scandinavian forestry science. Even his equipment is almost all European-made. The felled trees were transported to the roads that crisscross the Farm, loaded onto trucks, and brought to a grassy open field next to one of the large vegetable gardens that border Gould Road.

Four portable band sawmills were set up in the field. All were operated by members of the Massachusetts Portable Sawmill Owners Association. Two of them were Wood-Mizers, run respectively by Jim Clarke (head of the Association), and Tyler "Jack" Higgenbothen; the other two were Timber Harvesters, run respectively by Ted Koopman and Jerry Visser. (Actually, about a dozen people took turns at it.) The sawmills are portable, but not exactly the sort of thing you can pick up in your arms. Each mill has a fixed log deck, 20-feet long or so, and is driven by a 25- to 40-horsepower gas engine. The blade is horizontal, running over pulleys parallel to the ground. The logs do not move forward or backward; rather, the blade, travelling on a carriage, moves forward through the logs.

First, of course, the logs have to be lifted onto the log deck, which in this case was done by a Gould Farm tractor with a forklift attachment. The bark, obviously, is useless, and, since it had likely gotten dirty from lying on the ground, could actually have made the blade harder to clean at the end of the day. Fortunately, the sawmills have debarkers, run by electric motors. After a log is placed on the log deck, the debarker is lowered onto the log and chews up the bark on top. The blade makes one or two passes through the

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log, then the log is turned so that the debarker is presented with another side of the log.

Inevitably, when the blade makes a cut, some of the wood is lost as sawdust, or, as sawyers call it, kerf. Each band sawmill loses about 1/8 inch of kerf every time it made a cut along the whole length of the log, whereas a circular-blade mill will lose 1/4 inch or more. The outer parts of the logs for the new barn were cut into 2-inch x 6-inch planking; the square centers that remained after those had been removed were perfect for beams (many of them 6 inches x 6 inches) and joists. Not all the lumber needed to build the barn was cut, only about fifteen thousand board feet—the ground-floor decking and the beams and the joists for the first floor. Water was continuously sprayed over the blade during the cutting to keep it from overheating (a very hot blade is bad in itself and also is likelier to have pitch stick to it).

Portable sawmills are apparently becoming more and more popular. Every year in Massachusetts, conventional fixed sawmills in lumberyards produce something like one hundred and twenty million board feet of lumber. Massachusetts portable sawmillers (many of whom do *not* belong to the Association), mill about fifteen million board feet a year. This is not merely a relatively minor supplement to fixed-mill output. Rather, it is truly complementary. Much of the timber portable sawmillers use is "city wood": trees growing close to buildings, and therefore likely to have had nails driven into them and not taken out. Any sawmill blade that hits a nail will be severely damaged; a fixed-mill blade costs the better part of two thousand dollars, a portable sawmill blade only fifteen to thirty dollars.

Glynis Oliver

Portable sawmill in action at Gould Farm, Memorial Day weekend.

Jim Clarke, his wife Karla, their children, *and* their dog stayed overnight at the Farm's retreat house. The sawmillers ate up at Main House with the Farm's staff and guests, and reportedly enjoyed the food as much as most Gould Farmers do.

Over the weekend, the four sawmills were run for a total of about forty hours. As Jim Clarke said, the millers "spent Sunday teaching Farm staff how to use sawmills." A number of Gould Farmers got a chance to make a few passes through a log and, to commemorate their success at a new task, had their names marked on the planks they made. Plenty more lumber remains to be cut, and the millers plan to be back for another session July 14 through 16. And then they will be part of the capstone of the whole process, the barn raising on July 29.

I asked Clarke, "How do you like working on a project at a place with a mission like Gould Farm's?"

"Oh, everybody I've talked to is enjoying it," he said. "This project is helping enhance the quality of life."

— "William," a guest at Gould Farm

If you wish to learn more about Gould Farm, please visit our website at www.gouldfarm.org. *If you wish to learn more about the Massachusetts Portable Sawmill Owners Association, you may call Jim Clarke at (413) 628-3971, or send him an E-mail at* jim@newoodexchange.com.

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The Bidwell House Museum

Five years ago when I left the Bidwell House, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine being back at this magical place except as a visitor and museum member. The call from the Bidwell House board requesting assistance in finding an Interim Director while their search for a new Director began came at a very opportune time for me. After one year of spearheading a project called the Literary Trail of Greater Boston, it was obvious that funding for the new nonprofit umbrella organization that oversaw that project was ending. I had been looking for positions, but nothing was exciting me. So, moving to the Bidwell House for the tenth anniversary season of the museum (and the 250th of the house itself) seemed an ideal solution.

I have been here a total of two days as I write this and want to state that I am amazed at the progress the museum has made in five years under Anita's tenure. She leaves the museum in the best physical shape it's been in in years, with major structural preservation work accomplished on two outbuildings and the house itself. The heirloom vegetable garden, just a seed in my mind five years ago when I wrote a grant proposal to fund it, is now a major feature of the museum. Innovative education programs are planned for this summer and fall highlighting the rich history one can find at the Bidwell House. I am extremely pleased to see the museum through its anniversary and to carry out the excellent plans Anita has in place. Many congratulations to Anita and Tom, and the best of luck in her new position.

July Events

On Saturday, July 8, the Bidwell House will be part of the **Lenox Garden Club's Hidden Treasures Tour** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The Bidwell House's lovely perennial and heirloom vegetable and herb gardens will be on display. Tour participants will be served a picnic lunch on the grounds. For information on tickets, call the Lenox Garden Club at 298-3648 (tickets for this event will not be available at the Bidwell House).

On Saturday, July 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., the museum will host the **Annual Folk Concert & Anniversary Celebration,** featuring the internationally known and locally based Renaissance band Calliope. They will be performing on over forty traditional instruments and among the selections will be pieces from Reverend Bidwell's era—the eighteenth century. Two fifty-minute sets will be held on the museum lawn with a large tent for shelter. The performance will be followed by a celebration tea featuring sumptuous sweets from eighteenth-century recipes. Not only will the Folk Concert celebrate the Bidwell House's 250th anniversary, it will also mark the inauguration of our new parking area, making it much easier to park for this event! Tickets prices are $12 for adults, $8 for children; $6 for museum members and $4 for museum member's children.

Don't forget to visit the house to see our ongoing **exhibition of nineteenth- and twentieth-century hats** from the Bidwell House collection, as well as that of the Berkshire County Historical Society. The exhibition is a fitting tribute to the Bidwell House's benefactor Jack Hargis, whose fashion career included designing hats for Christian Dior and Jacques Fath in Paris in the late 1940s! Also on view are some of Jack's hat designs seen in drawing and photographs from the period. Hats dating from the 1840s through the 1920s are on display. The exhibition is included with museum admission and is free to all Bidwell House members. The exhibition will be on view through July 10.

Looking Ahead

On Friday, August 4, the Bidwell House is sponsoring a symposium called **"The Religious Climate of the Berkshires 1735–1800"** at 7:00 p.m. This event is in collaboration with Hancock Shaker Village and the Monterey Meetinghouse and will feature George S. Claghorn, a noted scholar on Jonathan Edwards, who will talk on Edwards and the Stockbridge Indian Mission. The Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd will speak on the Great Awakening and its effects on Berkshire County; Lisa Simpson will speak on Reverend Bidwell, Township Number 1's first minister; and Todd Burdick of Hancock Shaker Village will end the program with a discussion of the Shakers in Berkshire County. The event will last approximately one and a half hours and will be held at the

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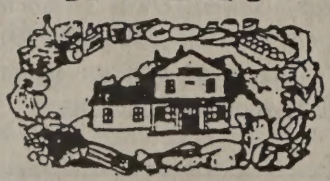

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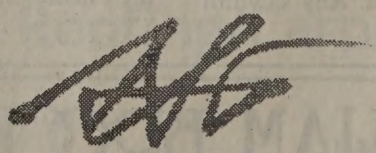

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Monterey Meetinghouse. Admission is $4.00 for adults, $1.00 for students, and free to Bidwell House members.

Volunteers Needed

Garden volunteers are desperately needed to help me with the Heirloom Vegetable Garden! Those of you who have enjoyed this magnificent garden in the past, please consider volunteering even one hour per week of your time. Tom and Anita did a fantastic job in the garden, but it's a bit much for me to handle alone. Volunteers will receive weekly heirloom produce when they work, as well as many thanks!

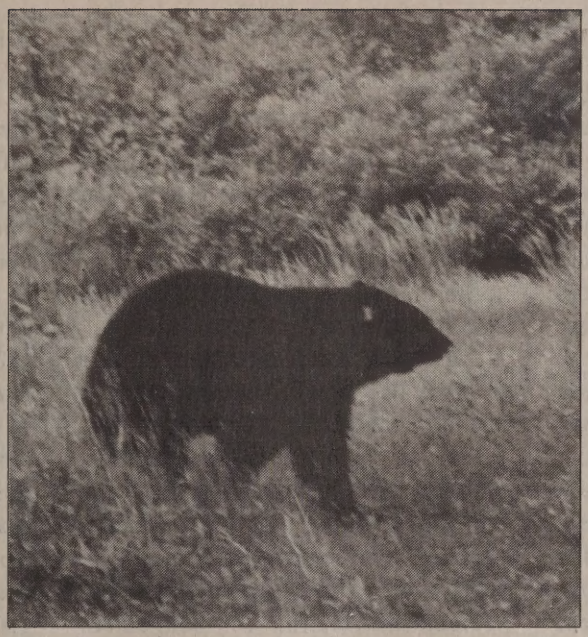
Folk Concert volunteers are needed to help with chair setup, parking, tickets sales at the event, and making and serving refreshments for the tea.

Guides are always needed to give tours of the house. We provide comprehensive training and the chance to meet interesting people, learn more about your community's history, and hang out with wonderful antiques!

Call Lisa at 528-6888 to discuss any volunteer opportunities further!

The Bidwell House museum is open for tours Tuesday–Sunday, 11:00–4:00. Grounds and hiking trails are open during daylight hours every day. Admission to the house is $5.00 for adults, $4.00 for seniors and students, and $1.00 for children under 12. The museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. For information about tours, programs, or museum membership call Lisa Simpson at 413-528-6888.

—Lisa Simpson



Lucy Rosenthal

A summer morning visitor at the Rosenthals on Beartown Mountain Road.

Monterey Historical Society
Calendar Of Events

The Historical Society has been working on a program to discuss the designation of a Historic District in Monterey. When last the subject came up, there was considerable misunderstanding and lack of information. Because such a district has rich potential for our future in Monterey, the Society wishes to offer a program in which all aspects of the matter can be discussed. There are definite advantages for the Historic District, and the majority of the data preparation needed for this designation has been accomplished. It now seems appropriate to review the pros and cons.

July 18, Tuesday evening, 7:00 p.m., in the Knox Museum beside the Monterey Library: Betsy Friedberg, of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, will present a slide program illustrating what other towns in the Commonwealth have accomplished in their Historic Districts. These are actual examples. Discussion will cover the requirements, if any, associated with a Historic District and how other towns have been able to convert appropriate sites and buildings into functioning and fully equipped municipal centers. What are the financial incentives? Would it be suitable for Monterey? Is the town's historic past important for its future? Come and bring your questions. Ms. Friedberg will give us reliable information and answers on behalf of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

July 21, Friday Evening, 7:00 p.m. The Monterey Historical Society will meet in the Knox Room at the Monterey Library. A short business meeting will be first on the docket. Elections to unfilled or vacated offices will be held, and a brief financial statement will be read.

The program for the evening will feature Monterey's own Michelle Miller, who has recently completed an interesting research on the history of Monterey. Michelle is a student at Skidmore College completing her degree requirements. You may recall experiencing her talents as one of Monterey's favorite chefs, but her focus has lately been devoted to researching the past events and personalities of our town. As varied and interesting as our present-day citizens may be, the past harbors individuals of unusual capabilities and quirks. Come and join us as we celebrate some of the fascinating events that made us what we are today.

For further information, contact: Cynthia Weber, 413 528-3698.

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Recycling Hotline

Getting answers to your questions about recycling has just gotten a little simpler.

If you aren't sure what to do with all those cans and bottles from that graduation party or how to recycle those old newspapers and magazines stacked up in the basement, E-Call, the Massachusetts Recycling Hotline can help.

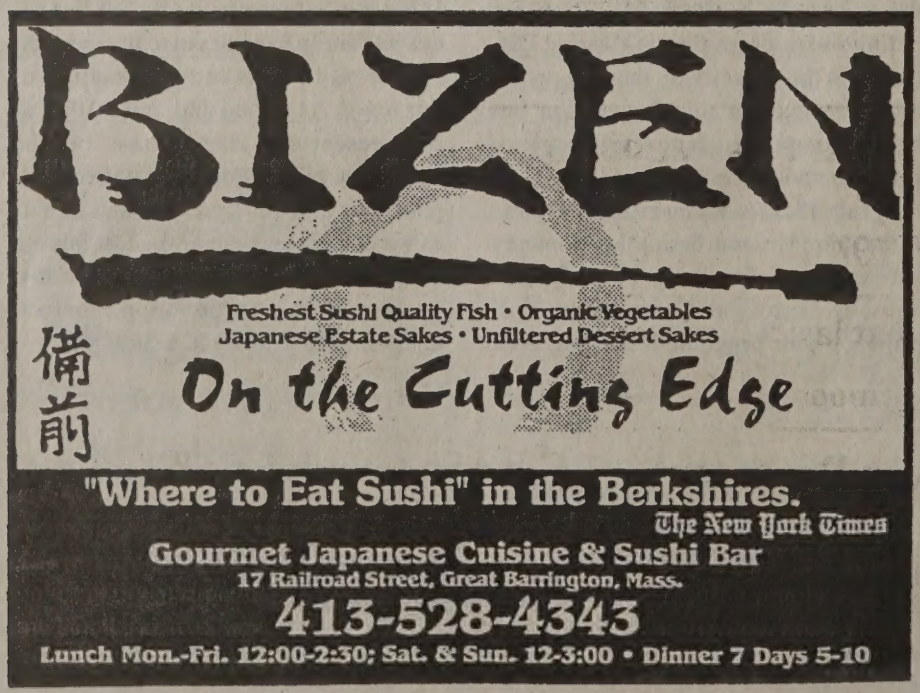
Just dial 1-800-800-6881, punch in your five-digit zip code, and you can get instant answers to basic questions about how, what, when, and where to recycle in your city or town, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The recorded two-minute messages provide consumers with answers to simple questions about recycling, like how or where to get a bin, or when the next collection day for paint or household chemicals is scheduled. It also makes life a little easier for town officials by redirecting simple calls and freeing up staff.

Gordon Martin, director of the award winning Wellesley Recycling Disposal Facility, which this year generated nearly $250,000 for the town through recycling, agrees: "In essence we are running a business here, shipping plastic to Asia, and baled fibers to Canada and Europe to generate income for our community. E-Call makes it easier for the public to find out basic information about recycling, and that frees us up to do our job more efficiently."

This innovative service is a public-private partnership sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, paid for in part with unredeemed bottle and can deposits, and supported in part by corporate contributions and business sponsorships.

Businesses who sponsor the service are also delighted with the return on their investments. According to Ben Harvey of E. L. Harvey and Sons, a family-owned waste management and recycling company in Westborough, "We feel good about sponsoring E-Call because it provides easy access to important information for consumers across the state and in our community. It also generates some good public relations for us, and helps us establish a positive presence in town, just like sponsoring a little league or hockey team."

According to E-Call's Executive Director, Matthew Costello, the goal of the project is to increase public awareness of recycling here in Massachusetts and to promote the state's recycling web site, www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle. "Recycling is important. We have a great opportunity to use resources like E-Call and the internet to make it as easy as possible for consumers."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Rep Rap

Now that budget debates are behind us the legislative conference committee to resolve the difference between the fiscal year 2001 House and Senate budgets has begun meeting. While the committee has many issues to work out in order to produce a budget that is responsible to both our fiscal health and the people we represent, one issue that is relevant not only to many people in Berkshire County but also throughout the state and the Northeast is the Senate budget's proposal to eliminate Massachusetts' participation in the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. I can happily report that the House budget did not include this issue. It has come to my attention how devastating this proposal could be to local small dairy farmers in our area and throughout the state. I feel that it is unacceptable for any more Massachusetts farmers to be uprooted; therefore I signed onto a letter opposing four sections of the Senate budget that will eliminate Massachusetts' participation in the compact.

The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact is a regional pricing mechanism for milk sold in all six New England states. It was passed into law by all six states and authorized by the U.S. Congress. The goal is to stabilize the price received by dairy farmers for milk and, at the same time, guarantee a fresh local milk supply in the area. The compact's Commission is composed of consumers, dairy farmers, milk bottlers, and government officials. This agreement is extremely important, now more than ever, because dairy farms in Massachusetts are slowly disappearing and family farms in New England are a rare breed.

In addition to the many benefits the compact provides for New England farmers it should also be noted that without this compact's effective operation the price of milk could rise up to forty cents per gallon due to increased transportation costs. Loss of the compact would also place further strain on New England farms, due to the antiquated federal milk pricing orders that favor huge dairies in the Midwest and West.

Currently, the move to cripple the compact is being supported by political and profit motivations of Suiza Foods; a multi-billion dollar international food conglomerate anxious to preserve its ability to control prices, contrary to the interests of both consumers and farmers. Currently, this company controls about 80 percent of the fresh milk supply in our area through ownership of West Lynn Creamery, Garelik Farms, Cumberland Farms, and others.

The compact preserves family farms and without it many dairy farms will go belly up. If Massachusetts withdraws from the compact then the compact will fold. We will then be forced to have milk transported from the Midwest whose quality and shelf life will be limited due to the distance the product must travel. The support of our local farms makes it possible for our consumers to put fresh, local, high quality milk on everyone's table while also protecting a large portion of our open space from unsuitable development by maintaining it as farmland.

It is my hope, and the hope of many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, that opposition to Massachusetts' participation in the compact will be removed from the final budget for the Fiscal Year 2001. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

Senator Says

The Senate Ways and Means Committee released its Fiscal Year 2001 (FY 01) budget recommendations on May 17, 2000. The Senate began debate on May 23, 2000, and passed its budget proposal on May 25, 2000. A joint conference committee has been appointed to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget, after which it proceeds to the Governor's desk. Budget items important to our district are highlighted below.

The Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) account is funded at $18 million for FY01, an increase of $3 million over the FY00 appropriation. This line item is especially important to western Massachusetts, because of its large acreage of state parks and forests. The appropriation is funded identically in both the House and Senate budget proposals and, therefore, is not subject to conference. The increase represents the fourth year of a five-year plan to fully fund this account.

The Regional School Transportation account is funded at $48.6 million for FY 01, an $8 million increase over the FY00 appropriation. The increased funding for Regional School Transportation represents the final year of the three-year plan to fully fund the account. Rural school districts stand to benefit most from this additional funding.

Funding for Education: The Senate budget includes over $102 million for schools in this district, almost $6 million more than last year. Some schools, such as those in Lee, Lenox, and Richmond, have seen one-year increases of more than 10 percent. The Senate's commitment to public education is reflected in the fact that it secured significantly more funding for schools than was included in the House's or the Governor's budgets.

For the second year in a row, the Senate adopted my proposal to dedicate $1 million to the **Agricultural Preservation Restriction** (APR) Program. This increase in funding for farmland preservation was one of my top budget priorities last year, and I redoubled my effort to secure this funding this year. The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) administers the APR program, which is the oldest agriculture preservation program of its kind in the United States. Under APR, the Commonwealth buys development rights on open space. The land remains privately owned and continues to serve agricultural purposes. The program has protected prime Massachusetts farmland from development by acquiring over 42,000 acres of agricultural land and leveraging over $40 million in federal, local, and nonprofit funds. By the end of the fiscal year, the APR program will have protected 514 properties in 133 cities and towns throughout Massachusetts.

In addition to the added funding, this year I secured an amendment on the floor of the Senate that allows the DFA to give priority for these funds to communities where reasonable matching funds are made available to assist with the purchase. This language will help to stretch the state money to reach as many of the farms on the waiting list as possible. It is also a way to demonstrate that the state investment has the practical support of area residents or environmental organizations. Preservation of open space, especially when it is irreplaceable working farmland, is central to the quality of life in western Massachusetts. Open space preservation continues to be a priority of mine, and I will continue to speak with my colleagues about the issue.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Where Peace Abounds

There's a calm and peaceful stillness
In the early morning hours;
A quietude known only to a few ...
Those who rise before the daybreak
And watch the sun come up
Over mountains and the meadows
Wet with dew.
Where the mist is slowly rising
Along the meadow stream,
And here and there a bird begins to sing—
A calm that lifts one's spirits
As he breathes the country air
With its refreshing fragrance
In the spring.

There's a peacefulness in summer
When the smell of new-mown hay
Is wafted on the breezes soft and warm
As the cows from the pasture
Slowly wend their way
Where the bees among the clover linger long;
And assurance in the rainbow
After sudden summer rain
When its arch of pastel splendor
Spans the sky.
There's a peace here in the country
No city street can claim
When the winds among the pine trees
Softly sigh.

— Eleanor Kimberley

Daisies

How I envy that daisy
over there
already it knows
if you love me!

— A. O. Howell

Genesis Rewritten

A prism casts many hues
a window for the sun's alchemy
upon your wall.
Sometimes, it is in the greens
and pale purples
that my eyes fall—
tumbling from a pinched mind
and languid heart
to bask in the random beauty
of focused light
And it is good.

Another lilac blooms, and this year
I can swallow its scent
and look, truly seeing
the curled green leaves
the purple blossoms.
These same colors stretched out
on your gray carpet
even when rose petals shattered
against the glass
And it is good.

When the curtains ripple
inviting spring to perch inside
the whisper of applewood,
grass
and sky
curl into a scampering serenade.
I rest in the hues, the axis
of greens and blues—
the balm of kaleidoscope
And it is good.

— M. Hamilton

Scars

My old pine table is strong,
dependable,
just the right size,
eighteen by twenty-four
and light,
easy to move for a game of solitaire.

Generations have left their marks.
Grandfather burned it with his pipe.
It stood between him and Grandmother,
doing her needlepoint for the dining room chairs.
Her flowers left a telltale ring.
An uncle, whom we called "Boney,"
would endlessly tell us of our three bones,
funnybone, wishbone, and backbone.
He nicked the table with his cut-out paper work.
Great Aunt Tricia left ink stains while
writing her famous inflammatory letters.
Her spirit was as independent as that of the South, itself.
She lived across the street from her husband
in her own family home.
She always said she endowed the position
of wife, it didn't endow her.

Great Grandfather Howard
was hit by lightning in a storm and killed
while closing a window on the third floor.
His initials are carved in the corner of the table.
The old scarred table tells me who I am.
I, too, will leave my mark on it, my work of love,
perhaps on some cold December night.

— Nancy D. Adams

Summer Heat

Ferns unsprung, the fields need mowing
Geese on the lake, down where the beach is
In sweltering sun our pace now slowing
We hear in the distance a cow's soft lowing
While a cool breeze stretches until it reaches

These needy selves, its breath bestowing
A moment's calm on fretful features
But soon, in silence, it leaves unknowing
That, unrelieved, there's sadness growing
However much our friends beseech us

This raging love that's had us so in thrall
We realize, now, won't make it to the fall

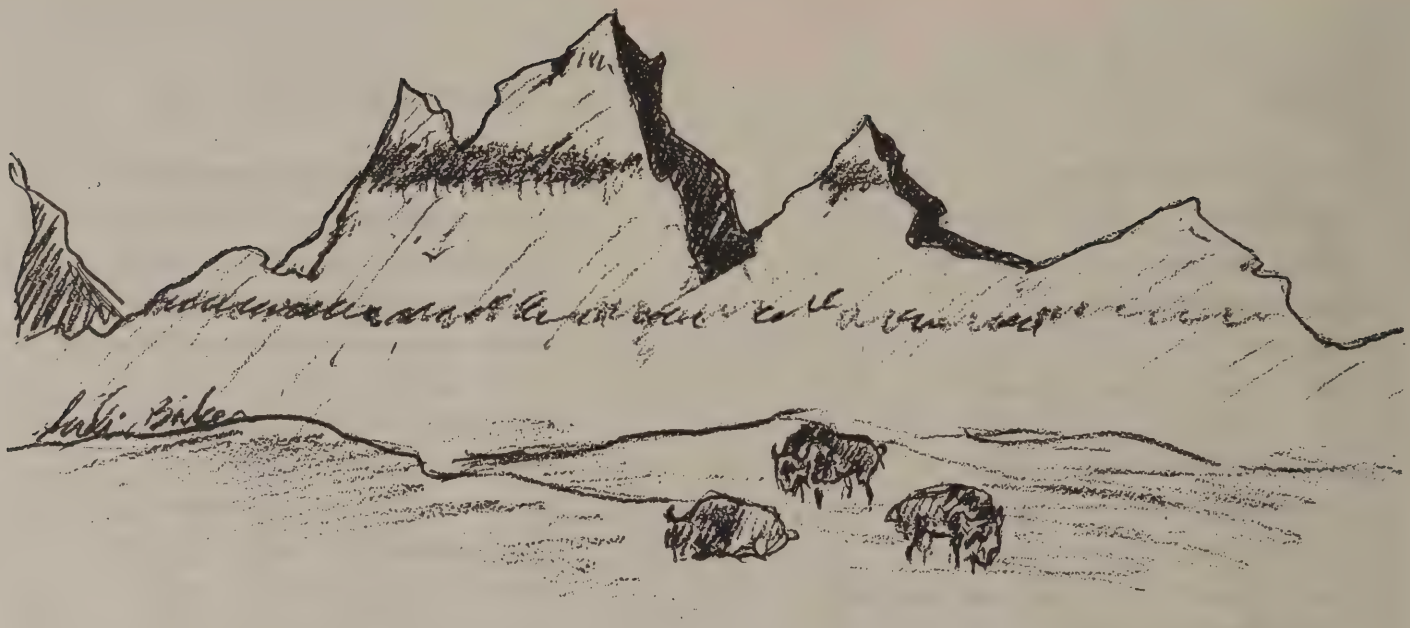
— Edwin Schur

Silver Light

gentle breeze
soft sway to trees
light catches leaves
turns them silver
their nap a little worn.

on the surface of the sea
light capers, often dancing
night sky full of twinkles,
streaks, spots, pinpoints
constant movement
in a short space of time

— Nancy D. Adams



Back in Badlands

We have sweet clover at home. It grows tall, especially along roadsides, and has many tiny individual white pea blossoms. You wouldn't necessarily recognize it as being clover, since it doesn't have typical clover pom-poms.

Here in South Dakota the sweet clover is yellow, and it is in its season of full bloom right now. I've been in Badlands National Park many times, but never have I seen the landscape with this blush of yellow-green. The jagged rock formations, the lightning storms and rainbows, the dark and potent buffalo with their little prairie dog partners—all are highlighted this season by a wash of tiny yellow flowers on tall green stems.

This is a place where Sage Creek Wilderness, Buffalo Gap National Grassland, and the Pine Ridge Reservation come together. To a paleontologist, Badlands is famous for its fossils from the Oligocene epoch, when the dinosaurs had disappeared and all sorts of marvelous mammals lived here. Huge titanotheres, tiny horses, early versions of camels, grass-eating creatures like sheep but armed with big fangs, and big pigs. In fact there is a project in the park known as the Big Pig Dig, where paleontologists are right now carefully opening up layers of rock and sediment and lifting out stone bones of ancient pigs.

We are camping at Sage Creek, in the middle of all this wonder. The sky is so big we can see the weather coming and going in the distance without having to assume it will come within miles of us. The horizon is rolling, varied, brushed with that yellow-green of sweet clover. The guardian of our campground is Señor Bison, who makes his routine progress from the grassy hollow west of us up onto a dry lookout spot. Here he stands, like a model for a Remington statue or a nickel, a symbol of change and not-change.

After a stately check on the world, a testing of the wind, he drops down to the lower creek bottom and rolls in one of his dry mud spots, sending up dust clouds and discouraging biting insects and skin troubles. Then it's down to the creek for a drink, and up onto the east bank for a delicious scratch on a low, rough-barked cottonwood limb. He has

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left gobs of wool here, stuck on the branch and caught in the grasses and underbrush. Finally he moves off east.

Yesterday we discovered his creek-crossing place. There is little water in Sage Creek and lots of suspended clay. But here there is a bit of a bathtub, half the size of our car, and Cora and I went for a dip with Sudi posted on the bank to keep a lookout for Señor.

"What am I going to do if he comes?" she asked.

"Just tell us," we burbled from our silty pool.

"But you can't outrun him ..."

Bison can travel 30 mph, but of course they have to *want* to. My theory was that Señor would recognize our respectful retreat and cut us a little slack, but he didn't show up so we just sent him silent thanks.

By suppertime the distant weather reached us. Just as we got the little windscreen in place and put water on to boil, rain hit in buckets. I stood where I was, stirring the reluctant noodles, and when it was finally time to serve them I found I could barely lift my feet. Rain had worked a magic on the ground, making it plastic and sticky. Each step I took brought another half-inch of clay with it until my sandals looked, as Joe said, like two-by-fours. My footprints were not impressions, they were removals, like the trail you make when you roll a big sticky snowball.

Our tent has been whapping and luffing in the prairie wind ever since we got here, but the pegs have held and we stayed dry in the storm. Today the meadowlarks are bubbling and trilling in the sunshine. There's no mud on *their* sandals. I can see Señor coming slowly down the slope across the creek to the east. I'm sure he can tell we visited his crossing.

"Hmmf. Three females from Massachusetts. They're a bit sunburned, got dried-out eyes from the wind, but otherwise are in a state of typical Badlands euphoria. You have to wonder why they don't just stay here and fatten up on wheatgrass, blue gramma, and buffalo bean."

Although we do feel welcomed by Señor and the meadowlarks, we won't stay here. Like our restless ancestors we'll move on in a few days to the great Rocky Mountains, looking for new sights and adventures. The yellow aura of sweet clover will be replaced by tall sagebrush, silver-green and gray. Badlands is where we stop and take a deep breath. We get oriented here, quit driving for a few days and understand that we have left the East, crossed the Midwest, the Mississippi, the Missouri: we are Out West.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Book Review by a Young Reader

The Day We Saw The Sun Come Up by Alice E. Goudey, illustrated by Adrienne Adams

I recommend this book to young children, or for a bedtime story. The pictures in this book are a combination of different styles of art. The pictures show background, shadow, and three dimensions.

This picture book is about a little girl, Sue, and her older brother. Sue and her brother get up very, very early. They even get up before the sun.

What do they see before sunrise? To find out more you can check this book out at the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

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Book Sale at Monterey Library

The Monterey Library will hold its annual used book sale on Saturday, July 29, as part of the "I Love Monterey Day" celebration. The sale will be from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the Library lawn. The Library will accept book donations until the day of the sale, but please no junk or textbooks.

There are always some treasures to be found at bargain prices, so come on out and help support the Library.

Another Book Review by Our Young Reader

The Fated Sky, by Henrietta Branford

More advanced readers will have a great time reading *The Fated Sky*. This book is good for people who like to read about long ago times and people, such as the Vikings.

This book is about a young Viking girl named Ran. Ran lives with Amma, her grandmother, Astrid, her mother, and Odd, the caretaker in Smolsund. Ran and her mother had planned to go to Sessing, just the two of them, when the evil Vigut comes to town.

To find out what happens to Ran after Vigut comes, check this book out of the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

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The Fledgling

Of Ravens, Crows, and Writers

The creative seeds of writing and drawing were probably planted in my mind as a child, when a neighbor gave me a book called *Wild Animals I Have Known* by Ernest Thompson Seton, illustrated with his own art work. My interest in Native Americans was similarly ignited by another of his books called *Two Little Savages.* What was planted in my gray matter however never bore fruit until later in life, when at middle age the light at the end of the tunnel of making a living and raising a family began to come into sight.

Perhaps the flame of creative ambition never went out all those years because I didn't have to use these talents to make a living. So they seem to have survived my working for forty-two years as a sales manager in New York City. Near the end of my career, I began to write and draw on the long commuter train ride for Westchester and Connecticut papers near where I lived. A preview of life after work came every night at the end of the tunnel out of Grand Central Station.

An example of how hard it can be to become creatively productive might well be the life of Edgar Allan Poe, (1809-1849), who had an abundance of talent. He struggled as an impoverished poet, writer, and often brilliant editor until his poem "The Raven" was published in the New York City *Mirror* in 1844. He then attained some degree of recognition. His poem, as everyone knows, is about a young man mourning the death of his beloved, and visited one night by a raven that can speak but one word ... "Nevermore."

It is curious that he made such a lasting literary mark by anthropomorphizing a raven with human powers to foretell the young man if he would meet his love, Lenore, in an afterlife. But then ravens long ago were superstitiously linked with magical powers in medieval minds and times. Like crows and parrots, ravens can be made to imitate the sounds of words, and these were misconstrued to predict the future. Edgar Allan Poe did not take well to living in New York City. He preferred to walk along the cliffs of the Hudson River, which might be where his famous raven came to mind, to foretell future success in his career.

In the first year of the new millennium, when the rising sun of each new day of my own retirement smiles down upon this old house at 585 Main Road, not having to go into the city, I still feel like a novice when left to my own artistic devices. Outside my bedroom window, the silence of a peaceful morning is often

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broken by the waking sound of hungry fledglings. Young crows can be heard hoarsely begging for the morsels of food being brought to them by scavenging parents.

On this particular day, the gluttonous croaking from their nest in woods across the way was drowned out suddenly by the loud alarm call of the ever watchful adults. The Caw! Caw! Caw! kept getting louder, indicating that trouble was getting closer, and it sounded like one of the fledglings had fallen to the ground. A young crow learning to fly sounds very vulnerable when calling for help. Parents respond by diving upon any intruder, and I could see that what they were chasing was headed my way.

Out of the draw that separates my property and that of Mark Makuc's ran what first appeared to be a mink, but in getting closer proved to be no less than a full grown otter. Apparently it had come out of Lake Garfield, up the tiny brook, after hearing what it believed to be an easy prey. Otters have been known to eat small birds. While under attack from above, it dashed, or slithered as only an otter can, by the Indian quartzite chipping rock at the edge of my lawn, over the fresh-cut grass, and across Main Road, where it was lost from view in the woods. Later I heard the very subdued cautious calling of the fledgling, perhaps to see if the coast was clear.

The next morning, in expectation, I was half awake with the first light, when the progression of night into day seems to hang suspended like a pendulum at the beginning of it's arc through space. If something sounded like the beak of a raven, tap, tap, tapping outside my chamber door, it was only the ticktock of the banjo clock at the head of the stairs. When my feet hit the floor, I hear a familiar voice outside. Unlike Poe's bird perched on the antique bust of Pallas over his door, the fledgling crow croaks from a perch high in the branches of a pine. High above it, from the pulpits in the cathedral spires of deep conifers, the pale green tendrils of new growth on each branch reach up into a blue sky. As the sun comes up, they are transfigured in the light of a new growing season.

— George Emmons

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Benefit Concert Reunites Friends Of Bill Crofut

On Saturday, July 22, at 8 p.m., musicians who worked with Bill Crofut during the folksinger's lifetime will reunite in a concert to benefit the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children. This musical happening will take place at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Route 57 and Hammertown Road in Sandisfield. Tickets are $12.50; reservations are recommended by calling (413) 258-3309.

Bill Crofut, internationally-known folk singer and banjo player, died of cancer in 1999. Having produced almost two dozen CDs, he lives on through an eclectic ensemble of music. The musicians he collaborated with and who will perform in this concert are: **Chris Brubeck**, a multitalented trombonist, pianist, and bass guitarist who played with Crofut for two decades. Chris and his father, jazz legend Dave Brubeck, were nominated for a 1994 Grammy award for the song *Autumn*, which they co-wrote for Dave's recent recording. **Benjamin Luxon**, the illustrious English baritone, performed with Bill Crofut for nearly a decade, touring the U.S. and England and recording CDs such as *Two Gentlemen Folk*. They also appeared in a television program of the same name on PBS. **Joel Brown**, guitarist and Artist-in-Residence at Skidmore College, performed and recorded with Crofut and Brubeck for nearly ten years. An active soloist, and founder of the trio Tritonis, he has appeared with the Hartford Symphony and the New York City Opera. **Jim Cowdery** is a composer, writer, and editor, with a background in ethnomusicology. He was a founding member of the band How to Change a Flat Tire and can be heard on ten of Bill Crofut's recordings playing pennywhistle, recorder, and mandolin. **Maggie Holtzberg** performed with Jim Cowdery and made two recordings with How to Change a Flat Tire. During the 80s she recorded with Crofut and Luxon. An expert fiddle player, she earns her living as a folklorist, currently serving as state folklorist for the Massachusetts Cultural Council. **Carver Blanchard**, lutenist, tenor and composer, is leader of his own Lute Unleashed group, director of the Fernwood Center for the Performing Arts, and teacher at Wesleyan University. He can be found on several Crofut recordings.

All of these artists are included on the soon-to-be-released CD called *Dance on a Moonbeam*, the proceeds of which will benefit children's charities through The Simple Gifts for Children Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. This CD was Bill's last project and features Dawn Upshaw, Frederica Von Stade, Julianne Baird, and Meryl Streep performing traditional songs and musical settings of poetry for children.

The mission of the Bill Crofut Arts Fund is to foster arts training for children of Sandisfield. It is administered through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The first grants were awarded to six children for a wide range of programs, including Chorus Angelicus, Barrington Stage Co., and Flying Cloud Institute.

Goat Scrabble

The job of milking at Rawson Brook Farm is done by a small crew of workers who hardly ever meet. We communicate most often by colorful messages scrawled in markers on one of those erasable boards. Sometimes helpful information is passed along like "Snowball didn't eat her grain this morning," or "Mahogany has a plugged teat." Other times we let our imaginations flow and start up a game.

It was in this way that a game evolved to relieve the monotony that sometimes settles in when everything is going smoothly. This is a word game played by the milkers through the medium of the goats. It hinges on the fact that there are forty-eight goats, each with a name, that come up for milking in a random sequence. By using the first letter of each goat's name and keeping to the sequence of letters the goats present, you can make words. If you can make words, you can play Scrabble. All the milkers can participate, their "turn" being their entire milking shift. The words are recorded scrabble style on the board, each person using a different colored marker to identify their words. Each game lasts a full week to give everyone a chance.

The rules vary slightly from traditional Scrabble. We get the letters in a

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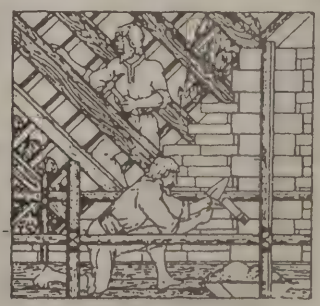

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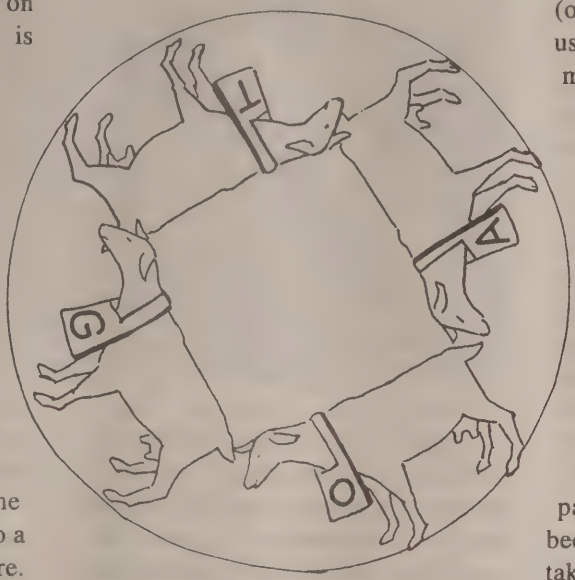
random sequence determined by the goats as they come up to be milked and have to use the letters in the sequence they appear, with no skipping or reversing letters. For example, C-U-B-S was formed by Carina, Umbra, Balsa, and Sunflower, who came up in that order. This puts quite a limitation on the game, but after all your turn is forty-eight letters long.

The letters we have to work with are not nicely apportioned as in Scrabble. We have too many J's and no I's or O's whatsoever. We have three white goats though, and they quickly became our blanks, giving us some options. Without an official game board we cannot score, so the game is played for the fun and challenge of making words.

The game caught on and everybody played the first week. Even some who don't usually milk wanted to do a shift so they could play. This is rare. The game has added a new challenge to the job—shuffling letters in our heads while shifting goats along the milking stand. We are honor bound not to alter the order of the goats by physically preventing a goat from coming up and calling out for the one whose letter you needed. The goats ignore such nonsense anyway.

We have had some wonderful words—words that caused challenges, like *anneal* and *parse*, and sent us to our dictionaries when we got home. We encounter the same frustrations that occur in Scrabble, such as getting a whole



string of vowels followed by a whole string of consonants. And our blanks have this habit of appearing in a cluster right at the beginning, rendering themselves practically useless. I once had the letters B-E-C-A-U-S and knew Eve was still to come up for milking. In great suspense I opened the hatch to let in the next goat only to find Acacia standing there—and Eve was the next one behind her!

There are more pitfalls to our game in the milking parlor than would ever happen in Scrabble. One of our blanks was *sold* along with four other letters (one of these at least was a J), leaving us with a mere forty-three now. I find myself looking over the new crop of kids not for their future milking potential but for their names or letters. (They were all named before we started playing, so the randomness of the game will remain undisturbed when they join the milkers next season.) I have noted that with Indigo we will at least have an I to work with.

I have to confess there has been a lull in the game playing after that first intense week. Not everyone participated in the next game, perhaps because it tends to make the milking take somewhat longer. I did notice an increase in my time, logging in a spectacular four and a quarter hours one day—a record for me. I suspect also that 5:30 a.m. is not everyone's best time. Whatever the reason, I am grateful to those who have participated. Even though we don't usually see one another, it is fun to play a game with everyone and to know that the others who do this job too have such a good sense of fun.

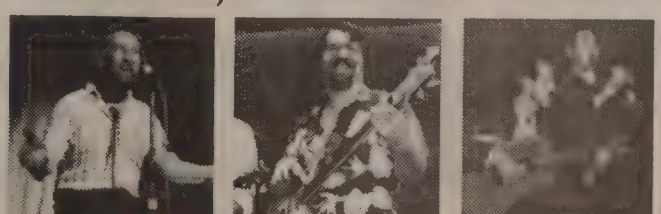
— Glynis Oliver

Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children

BENEFIT CONCERT

Presented by The Sandisfield Arts & Restoration Committee

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2000 AT 8:00 P.M.



Join friends of the late Bill Crofut in a special evening full of music and fun. Ben Luxon, Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown, Jim Cowdery, Carver Blanchard, and Maggie Holtzberg reunite in the beautiful Sandisfield Arts Center, a historic building (1839) with tall ceilings, wonderful acoustics, and plenty of small town charm. Located on Route 57 & Hammertown Rd. (3 miles west of Junction Rt. 8 & 57).

Tickets are $12.50 with all proceeds going to fund the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children of Sandisfield. Call (413) 258-3309 for more information.

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A Monterey Mystery

MaryKate Jordan

The dress itself is made of a pale-yellow-to-peach-colored silk, banded at the cuffs with pale bronze silk and finished with silk-covered buttons. The skirt and bodice are separate pieces, and the bodice is lined with a chestnut colored chintz. Paperwork authenticates its origins back only about 115 years, but substantial rumors, at least, ascribe the dress to General Washington's Lady.

If all the traceable rumors were rooted in truth and spoken in good faith, then Beth King has one of Martha Washington's dresses in her house on Beartown Road. But even if it wasn't Martha's, the journey the dress took to eventually arrive in Monterey is mystery enough.

Long before he married Alice, and long before they became Beth's parents, Douglas Howell grew up in Italy. His mother was a syndicated political journalist, and the family made their home in Genoa. Teddy Craig, his best friend and next-door neighbor, was the son of actor Gordon Craig, and the grandson of Shakespearean actress Ellen Terry.

In the mid 1880s, Ellen Terry was a British superstar on tour in the United States. She stunned American audiences with her brilliant stage presence; even theaters were named after her. She lived for a time in Washington, D.C., befriended by the socially elite and welcomed into the very best homes.

One of the friends and admirers who welcomed the actress was Olive Risley Seward, the adopted daughter of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Henry Seward. And it is likely that Olive gave the peach silk dress, and a violet one, now lost, to Ellen Terry.

Elena Craig, Teddy's mother, received the dress from her mother-in-law. In the 1930s, she sent the dress to her son's childhood friend in the cardboard box that still holds it, although the dress is now safely wrapped in acid-free paper.

Mrs. Craig also enclosed a letter. "You know, when something is given one, you don't instantly think of asking why, where, and how," she wrote. "I can only be quite sure Miss Terry would not have said that the dress was Martha Washington's if it was not, because to us [the British] M. W. does not have the same feeling [as to you Americans]."

She also sent a document which states, "This is to certify that this pale yellow silk dress was once the property of Martha Washington. It was given, together with another, to the late Dame Ellen Terry, O.B.E., in about 1884 by some of her American admirers in Washington. In 1915 the late Dame Ellen Terry gave them both to the undersigned, Elena F. Gordon Craig."

She seems to have felt that Douglas, as an American, was a more appropriate curator than she of Martha's dress. He offered it to the Smithsonian, but the people he spoke to at the museum weren't interested in his find. They commented that it is made in a style fashionable just after Martha Washington's death. And

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Martha was quite plump; even with the drawstring waist on its skirt, this dress wouldn't accommodate an ample woman.

But for most of human history—before the consumerism of the twentieth century—cloth was precious, and it was common to have a deceased person's clothes recut for a surviving relative. The dress may have been cut down for Martha Washington's granddaughter, who was also named Martha. Unimpressed with the official rebuff, Douglas Howell kept this piece of the fabric of American history, and the papers which came with it.

Eventually, the beautiful peach silk dress came to Beth, who brought it to Monterey. Martha's or not, it's truly a dress fit for the country's First Lady.

— MaryKate Jordan

Monterey Nature Hikes

Everyone is welcome to come on nature hikes to be led by naturalist and *Monterey News* columnist Bonner McAllester on August 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on each of these days at the Monterey Meetinghouse, across from the General Store. Each hike will last for about an hour and a half. Bring hat, bug dope, binoculars, and handlens if you have one. Please phone Bonner at 528-9385 by the night before to register. Fee: $5 for adults, $2 for children. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Culural Council.

Personal Notes

Happy Birthday greetings to **Nancy Kalodner** on July 1, **Jason Monk** July 2, **Walter Parks** July 7, **Jerry Raab** July 14, **Jessica Thorn** July 15, **Leonard Weber** July 18, **Joseph Kopetchny** July 21, **Richard Sheridan** July 23, **Thomas Lipsky** July 24, **Michael Bingham** July 26, **Charles McTavish** and **Darlene Monk** July 28.

Happy Anniversary wishes to **Tim and Grace Burke** on July 1, **Maury and Carolyn Mandel** on July 19, and **Michael and Nancy Monk Bingham** on July 25.

The Olga Dunn School of Dance presented "Glimpses into the Millennium—Vivaldi, Poppins, Grease, and More!" on June 10. **Tarsi Dunlop** and **Dinah Mielke** were among a huge cast of dancers to perform jazz pieces and classical ballet to the tunes of the movies *Mary Poppins* and *Grease*. Tarsi also performed with a Swing group to "Jump Jive." Gotta dance!

Swinging down memory lane

July 1970: The Town Hall and Community Center Building Committee has just concluded a series of interviews with prospective designers. .... The Committee will soon decide which firm it feels can best interpret the needs and desires of the Town while at the same time designing a building within the financial scope of the townspeople. The Committee wishes to thank the Library Trustees for allowing them to use the Library for these interviews. It was a very pleasant spot and easy to designate to the visitors.

July 1980: The Energy Project in Monterey is proceeding with full energy toward its auction sale on Sat., July 26, at 9:30 am in Greene Park. All citizens in Monterey are being asked to sort through garage, attic, store-room and ask what I can contribute to help Monterey's study of energy go forward....

July 1990: Applause to Karen Shreefter of Blue Hill Rd., whose one-act play, *Edith: An Intimate Portrait,* was performed by Shakespeare and Company at The Mount in Lenox every weekend in June. Inspired by Edith Wharton's life, the play was described as a "thoughtful evocation of the author in the despair of an unworkable marriage and in the throes of her life's great love." Hats off, Karen!

Got news? Send it to POB 211 or call 528-1871. Thanks.

— Deborah Mielke

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for July

When you're swimming
across the lake,
Be sure a red
swim cap to take.

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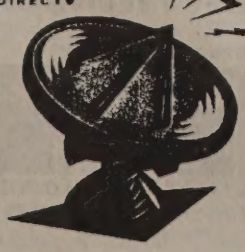

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***

I will meet with you at your

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Monterey Meetinghouse

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Calendar

Every Friday in July, Nature hikes in Beartown Forest. Meet at beach area at 1:00 p.m. See p. 6 for details.

Monday, July 3, Town Hall closed.

Tuesday, July 4, Town Hall closed.

Saturday, July 8, Lenox Garden Club's Hidden Treasures of the Berkshires, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Includes Bidwell House gardens. For information or tickets call the Lenox Garden Club at 298-3648.

Saturday, July 15

8th Annual Folk Concert & Anniversary Celebration, 2:00–4:00, The Bidwell House, Art School Rd. Adults $12, Children $8; Museum members $6, Museum members' children $4. Call 528-6888 for information.

Storytelling by Vicky Cooper, 10 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 6.

New Boston Congregational Church Flea Market, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Parish Hall, Rt. 57, Sandisfield. Plants, crafts, baked goods, tag sale items. Lunch will be available. Information 258-3341.

Tuesday, July 18

Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Illustrated slide program on Historic Districts by Betsy Friedberg of Massachusetts Historic Commission, 7:00 p.m., General Knox Museum, Monterey Library, sponsored by Monterey Historical Society. See p. 9 for details.

Friday, July 21, Monterey Historical Society meeting, lecture by Michelle Miller on history of Monterey, 7:00 p.m., General Knox Museum, Monterey Library. See p. 9.

Saturday, July 22

Monterey Land Trust Annual Meeting, Hike, 11:00 a.m. at "The Barway," Mt. Hunger. Information, Suzanne Hoppenstedt, 528-1786.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Adults $5, children $2. Info. 413-528-9385.

Benefit Concert for Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children, 8:00 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Rt. 57 and Hammertown Rd. Featuring many musicians who performed with Bill Crofut. Tickets $12.50, reservations recommended (413 258-3309). See p. 18 for details.

Saturday, July 29, I Love Monterey Day. See p. 3 for complete schedule.

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, 5:00–8:00 p.m., Firehouse Pavillion.

August, 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, Nature hikes led by Bonner McAllester, 9:00–10:30 a.m. Meet at Monterey Meetinghouse. Adults $5, children $2. See p. 21.

Swimming Lessons at Town Beach

The Monterey Park Commission is arranging for swimming lessons to be held at the Lake Garfield Town Beach on every weekday morning during the last week in July (July 24–28) and the first week in August (July 31–Aug. 4). Registration forms will be available at the Monterey General Store and the Town Beach.

The Observer

May 26—June 25, 2000

High temp. (6/11)	91°
Low temp. (6/1)	40°
Avg. high temp.	74.4°
Avg. low temp.	49.8°
Avg. temp.	62.1°

Total precipitation 7.14 in. on 15 days.

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Saturday, July 15 ~ 2:00 to 4:00

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Admission: Adults $12 ॐ Children $8

This project is supported in part by funding from the Mass. Cultural Council, administered by the Local Cultural Councils of Monterey, Alford/Egremont, Lenox, and Sandisfield.

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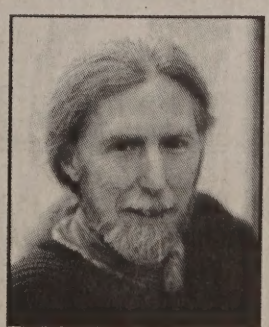

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, p. 14; George Emmons, p. 17; Glynis Oliver, pp. 12, 13, 15, 19

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